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IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor Norbert HESSBRÜGGEN et al
Patent App. 10/622,441
Filed 18 July 2003
For MACHINE CENTER WITH TWO MACHINING DEVICES WITH
 TOOL CHANGE POSITION

Art Unit Not known

Hon. Commissioner of Patents
Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.97(b)

There is enclosed a copy of a German search report in this application which cites, as reference D1 German Patent Document D 100 02 053 C2, as reference D2, DE 201 18 456 U1 and as reference D3, EP 0 767 721 B1.

The art is applied in the following portions of the search report and a free translation is provided below:

II... apart therefrom the EP 0 767 721 B1 which is already state of the art describes a machining center with the features of claim 1 and as far as patent claim 1 is concerned, reference may be made to the state of the art according to DE 201 18 456 U1, especially FIG. 1 and the associated description on pages 7 and 8. From this a machining center for the mechanical

machining of workpieces with at least two machining devices for receiving tools, with a pick up device for workpieces which is arranged substantially between the guide tracks, whereby the pickup device and the machining devices are so movable relative to one another that the workpiece is brought into the effective regions of the tools and whereby the machining device can be moved in a movement direction parallel to its rotation axis, is known.

Further attention should be directed to the state of the art according to DE 100 02 053 C2 with respect to patent claim 1 and especially FIGS. 1 and 4 and the associated description on page 4, line [0026]. From that, a machine tool for mechanically machining workpieces with pickup devices for picking up work pieces from a pick up region, whereby the pickup devices are displaceable along a guide track into a machining region are known.

In the use of the features known from DE 100 02 053 C2 in a machining center as it is described in DE 201 18 456 U1, only a possible structural modification is required for any skilled worker without this involving any inventive step.

The patent claim 1 is thus not allowable on these grounds in its present state.

As to patent claims 2 and 3, attention should be directed to the state of the art according to DE 100 02 053 C2 and especially FIG. 1.

As to patent claims 4 through 9, the state of the art according to DE 201 18 456 U1 and especially FIG. 1, patent claims

1 and 3 and the associated description should be considered.

The patent claims 10 and 11 provided constructive features of the subject matter of the invention.

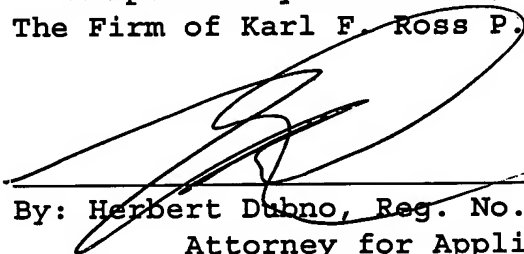
To patent claim 12, please consider the state of the art according to DE 201 18 456 U1, especially FIG. 1.

As to patent claims 13 to 15, attention is directed to the state of the art according to DE 201 18 456 U1, especially FIG. 1 and the associated description on page 4.

For patent claim 16 attention should be directed to the state of the art according to EP 0 767 721 B1 especially FIGS. 1 and 2.

If the application is to be pursued, the patentable details over the state of the art should be indicated in the subject matter of the application and patent claims correspondingly directed thereto should be filed.

Respectfully submitted,
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Encls: PTO-1449 & References

LIST OF PATENTS
AND PUBLICATIONS

22601

10/622,441

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FILING DATE

GROUP

18 July 2003

SEP 17 2003



U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EX. INIT		DOCUMENT NO. Cntry code - No.	DATE MM-YYYY	NAME	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	AA	US-					
	BB	US-					
	CC	US-					
	DD	US-					
	EE	US-					
	FF	US-					
	GG	US-					
	HH	US-					

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NO. Cntry Code - No.	DATE MM-YYYY	COUNTRY	NAME	CLASS	TRANSL.	
							YES	NO
	AI	201 18 456 U1	7 March 02	Germany				
	AJ	100 02 053 C2	14 March 02	Germany				
	AK							
	AL							
	AM							
	AN							
	AO							
	AP							
	AR							

OTHER ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

	AS	
	AT	
	AU	

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

EXAMINER: Initial if Reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

12 September 2003

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